

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

**Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 8, with the following
rewritten paragraph:**

According to the present invention, there is provided an object detection method, comprising the steps of: extracting a moving vector of each block from input video data including a background area and at least one object area; estimating a movement of the background area in the video data by referring to the moving vector; eliminating the estimated ~~move~~ movement of the background area from the video data; and detecting the object area by referring to the moving vector in the video data from which the ~~move~~ movement of the background area is eliminated.

**Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 7, with the following
rewritten paragraph:**

Fig. 14 is a flow chart of processing of the video retrieval system according to a second embodiment of the present invention. In the second embodiment, instead of detection of the object from the video data in the first embodiment, the original video data 1100 with the feature data analyzed previously is inputted (step 1100 1101). The feature data of the object is extracted from the input feature data (step 1102). In the same way as in the first embodiment, a similarity degree between the feature data of the original video data 1100 extracted at step 1102 and the feature data 1110 of the retrieval object inputted at step 1109 is calculated as decision processing (step 1108). The retrieval result is synthetically displayed as the object retrieval result data 1112 (step 1111).